



PENGUIN ACTIVE READING

LEVEL 1

The Crown

M R James



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M. R. James

Level 1

Retold by Paul Shipton

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Contents

	Activities 1	iv
Chapter 1	Paxton's Story	1
	Activities 2	8
Chapter 2	The Man on the Hill	10
	Activities 3	14
Chapter 3	The Shadow in the Night	16
	Activities 4	20
Chapter 4	A Cold, Dark Night	22
	Activities 5	26
Chapter 5	A Long Run on the Beach	28
	Activities 6	34
Chapter 6	The Dead Man by the Sea	36
	Talk about it	40
	Write about it	41
	Project: The Three Crowns Hotel	42

1.1 What's the book about?

- 1 Look at the man in the picture on page 1. What does he like doing on holiday? What do you think? Write in the words.

walks holiday talking sea quiet evenings hotel



I like going to Seaburgh on holiday Seaburgh is a very English town. I stay in a small there. Every day I go for long near the In the I like sitting in the hotel and to my friend, Henry Long.

- 2 Look at the picture of Seaburgh on page 1. Which places are in the story? What do you think? Put ✓ or X.

a beach	✓	a hotel	
the sea		shops	
an airport		a bus station	
a river		a cinema	

1.2 What happens first?

- Look at the words in *italics> on page 1. Then look at the pictures on pages 1 and 2. Put the right words in these sentences.*

- 1 Seaburgh is a town

country town house

- 2 It has a very long

river street beach

- 3 The story starts

in the morning in the afternoon at night

- 4 The men are in

a hotel a cinema an office

- 5 They are

working talking watching TV

- 6 The young man looks

happy unhappy afraid

Paxton's Story

*'Do you want to see a doctor?' Long asked.
'No, no,' the young man said. 'I ... I'm afraid.'*

It's a cold night. Come in and sit down. Don't be **afraid**. That noise is only the **wind** in the trees. Please listen to my story.

It started on a dark, dark night in Seaburgh. Do you know Seaburgh? It's a small English town near the sea. There's a train station near it, and there are some houses and shops. There's one small hotel. The **beach** is good and long, but the sea is usually very cold. (That isn't a problem for me. I don't like swimming!)



afraid /ə'freɪd/ (adj) I never go in the sea because I am *afraid* of water.

wind /wɪnd/ (n) The *wind* is very strong; that tree is going to fall.

beach /bi:tʃ/ (n) Let's go to the *beach* and swim in the sea.



I was at the hotel there with my friend, Henry Long. It was cold that April and there weren't many people in Seaburgh. That was good for us because it was quiet.

It was a good holiday. Every day Long and I walked near the sea. In the evenings we liked to sit in the hotel and talk.

Suddenly, one evening, there was a noise at the door. A young man opened it.

'I'm sorry,' he said to us. 'Please excuse me.'

'That's OK,' I said.

'Come in,' Long said.

The young man came into the light. He was short and he had dark hair. I looked at his unhappy face.

'What's wrong?' I asked. 'Are you OK?'

'Do you want to see a doctor?' Long asked.

'No, no,' the young man said. 'I ... I'm afraid.'

'Why?' Long asked.

The young man didn't answer my friend's question.

'Sit down and have a drink,' I said. 'What's your name?'

'Paxton.'

He didn't say his first name. (I don't know it today.)

'What's wrong, Paxton?' I asked.

The young man looked at me and then at Long. His eyes were big and his face was white.

'You don't know me,' he said.

'I understand that. But please **believe** me. Please.'

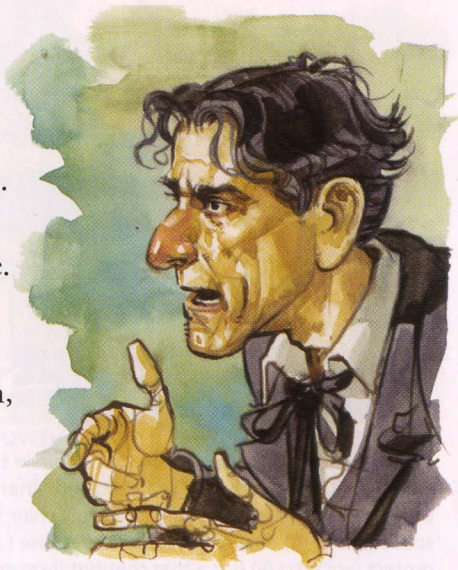
This was very important to him.

Then Paxton started his story.

Long and I listened for a long time.
Here is his story.



Paxton was on holiday in Seaburgh, too. He liked old buildings, and there were a lot of them near Seaburgh.



believe /br'i:lv/ (v) His friends *believe* his story, but the police don't.

One day he went on his bicycle to a **church** near the town. It was a beautiful small church.

There was an old picture on it with three **crowns**. It was very interesting and Paxton wanted to know about it.

There was an old man in the church garden.

‘Excuse me,’ Paxton said. ‘What do you know about this picture?’

The old man **put** down his **spade** and looked at the young man.

‘Do you know the story of the three crowns?’ he asked.

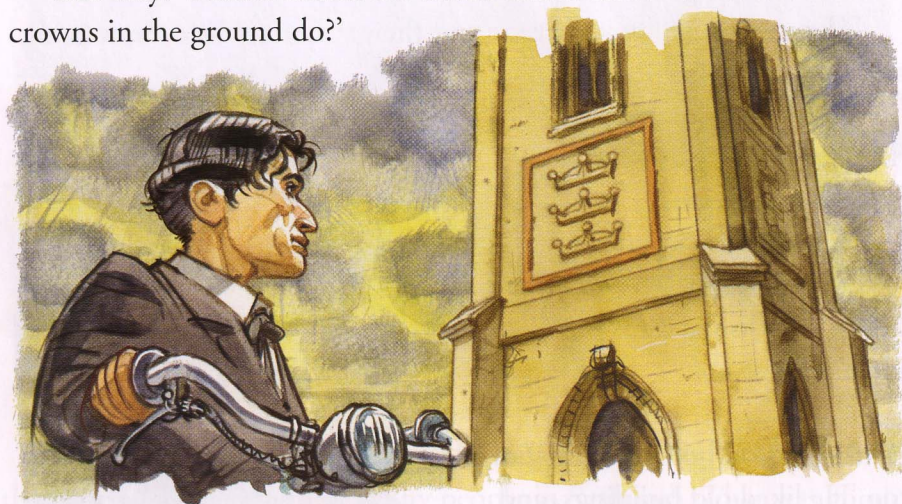
‘No,’ Paxton answered.

‘Seaburgh was always an important place,’ the old man said. ‘It is today, too. It’s important because it’s on the sea.’

‘I don’t understand,’ Paxton said.

‘The English wanted to **protect** their country from countries across the sea,’ the old man said. ‘They put three crowns in the **ground** near the sea. One of the crowns was here, near Seaburgh.’

‘But why?’ Paxton asked. He didn’t understand. ‘What did three crowns in the ground do?’



church /tʃɜːtʃ/ (n) There are a lot of people in the *church* on Sundays.

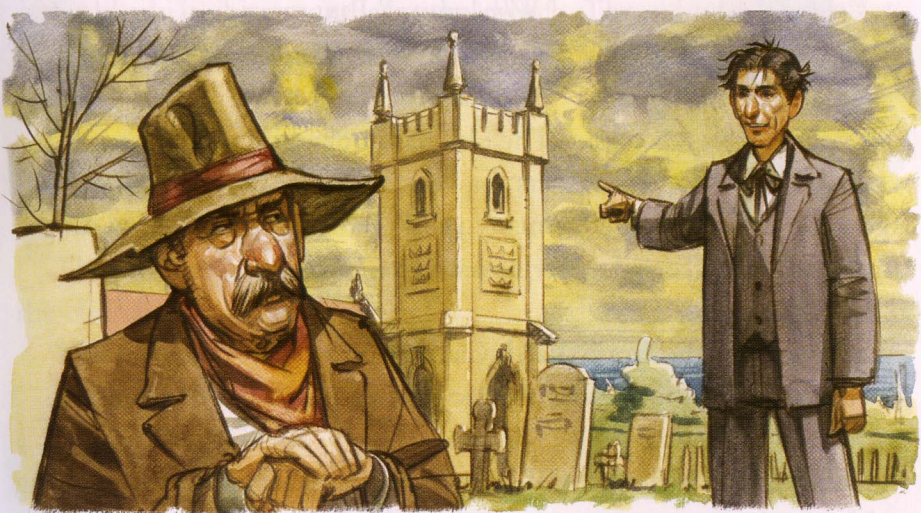
crown /kraʊn/ (n) In the picture, Elizabeth I has a beautiful *crown* on her head.

put /pʊt/ (v, past) I *put* my bag under my chair but now it isn't there!

spade /speɪd/ (n) I have three *spades* because I am a builder. - wɒnəʔə

protect /prəˈtekt/ (v) It is a thin coat but it *protects* me from the rain.

ground /graʊnd/ (n) There was a lot of water on the *ground* after the rain.



‘The three crowns were **magic**,’ the old man said. ‘Their magic protected the country.’

‘Do people believe that?’ Paxton asked with a smile.

‘Many people here in Seaburgh believe it,’ the old man answered.

‘But do *you* believe it?’ Paxton said.

The old man looked at the dark sea. His eyes were dark, too. He didn’t answer Paxton’s question.

‘And where are these crowns now?’ Paxton asked.

He looked at the water, too. There was a boat on the sea. It was small on the dark water.

‘That’s a difficult question,’ the old man said. ‘One of them is in London now. Every day people on holiday can go and look at it. One of the crowns is in the sea. Now only one crown is in the ground. But its magic is working today.’

‘Do you know about the **last** crown?’ Paxton asked. ‘Where is it?’

‘I don’t know that,’ the old man said.

magic /ˈmædʒɪk/ (adj/n) You can’t see it because it is a *magic* hat!

last /lɑːst/ (adj) What time is the *last* bus at night?



'Who knows?' Paxton said.

'Only the Agers family.'

'Who are they?'

The old man looked into Paxton's eyes.

'Agers is a very old name in Seaburgh. The Agers were a family here for many years. Families come and go. But the Agers always stayed. They never moved away.'

'Why not?'

'The men of the family had a very important job.' The old man was quiet now. 'The crown protected the country, and the Agers protected the crown.'

Paxton didn't believe the old man's story, but it was very interesting to him.

'Where are the Agers?' he asked. 'Can I talk to them?'

'The Agers can't answer any questions about the crown now,' the old man said. 'William Agers was the last person in the family. He lived near here. But he isn't talking now.'

'Why not?'



Suddenly it was very quiet at the church. The old man put his hand on a **gravestone**. He looked at Paxton's face. His eyes were cold now.

'You aren't from Seaburgh,' he said. 'Go back to your hotel. Don't think about the crown again.'

'I'm sorry,' Paxton started, 'but ...'

The old man didn't listen. He walked away from Paxton and from the church.

'What did I say?' Paxton asked. Only the wind listened to him.

Then he looked down at the gravestone.

WILLIAM AGERS

This was William Agers's gravestone. The man was dead! Who protected the crown now?



gravestone /'greivstaʊn/ (n) His mother is dead and this is her gravestone. – mondomad nuntia

2.1 Were you right?

Look again at Activity 1.2 on page iv. Are your answers right? Finish the sentences with the words on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Seaburgh is a small town | a comes into their room. |
| 2 The writer and Long | b about three crowns. |
| 3 They like walking | c protected the crowns. |
| 4 A young man | d near the sea. |
| 5 The young man's name | e are on holiday. |
| 6 He talks to them | f is in the ground. |
| 7 One of the crowns | g on the beach. |
| 8 The Agers family | h is Paxton. |

2.2 What more did you learn?

Write the names under the pictures. Then write the right letter.



church



- ☒ **F** 1 Paxton asks the old man about this.
- ☐ 2 The old man is working with this.
- ☐ 3 Its magic protects England.
- ☐ 4 Agers's name is on this.
- ☐ 5 Paxton visits places on this.
- ☐ 6 This old building is near Seaburgh.



3 Language in use

Look at the sentence in the box. Then put these words in the sentences.

There was an old man
in the church garden.

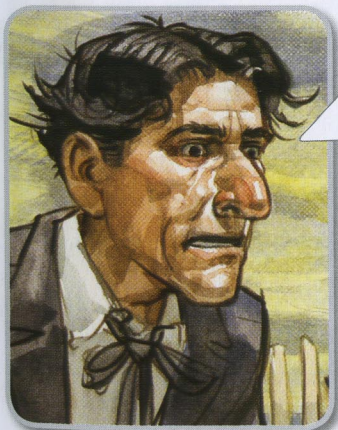
in near about at to for with on

- The writer stays at the hotel with Henry Long.
- Seaburgh is a small town the sea.
- Only one crown is the ground.
- The Agers family lived in Seaburgh many years.
- This story is a magic crown.
- Paxton goes to the church his bicycle.
- The two men listen Paxton's story.
- Paxton looks down the gravestone.

4 What's next?

Paxton is thinking about the crown. What is he going to do now? What do you think? Look at the picture and write in the words.

story find crown dead interesting
questions protects family



This story of the crowns
is very I have a lot of
..... I want to know
about the Agers
William Agers is
Who the last
..... now? Where is it?
Perhaps I can it!

The Man on the Hill

*'He was there in the sun, he was there in the rain.
He was there on cold days ... He was always there.'*



Paxton had many questions, but there were no answers here at the church. It was cold now and the wind was strong. Paxton went back on his bicycle to the town.

He didn't want to think about the crown or William Agers. He stopped at a small shop. There were some old books there. Paxton looked at them because he wanted to read in the hotel that evening.

Suddenly he stopped. The book in his hands was old and black. It was a book for church. There was a name and year in the book: Nathaniel Agers, 1754.

There were a lot of names and years. But the last name was always the same – Agers. This book was in the Agers family for years and years. It went from father to son, from father to son in the family.

Paxton looked at the last name in the book – ‘William Agers’. He had William’s book in his hands!

‘Excuse me,’ Paxton said to the tall, thin woman in the shop. ‘What do you know about William Agers?’

‘That isn’t a happy story,’ the woman said. ‘William Agers is dead. He was young – only twenty-eight.’

‘And he didn’t have a son?’

‘That’s right,’ the woman answered. ‘Mr Agers didn’t have a son or a daughter.’

‘Where did he live?’ Paxton asked. ‘I’m an old friend of the family.’

‘He lived in a small house near the sea,’ the woman said. ‘Do you want the address?’

‘Yes, please!’ Paxton said. He looked for some money in his coat. ‘And how much is this book?’



Paxton went to his bicycle again. Later, he arrived at William Agers's small house near the sea. It was dark and quiet there. Behind the house was a **hill**.

There was a man near the house. 'Can I **help** you?' he asked Paxton. Paxton asked the man about William Agers.

'I didn't know him very well,' the man said. 'William Agers was very quiet.'

'Did he have friends?' Paxton asked.

'No,' the man answered. 'Agers didn't like people. He was never in his house. He was always on that hill. He was there in the sun, he was there in the rain. He was there on cold days ... He was always there.'

'I understand,' Paxton said. The man walked away, but Paxton didn't move.

He looked at the small hill and smiled slowly. Was the last crown there?



hill /hɪl/ (n) We walked up the *hill* and looked down at the town.

help /help/ (v) Please *help* me with my homework!



It was late now. The room was dark. Long and I looked at Paxton's white face.

'And?' Long said. 'Was it? Was the crown there?'

'Yes, it was,' Paxton answered. 'But it isn't there now.'

'Where is it?' I asked.

'It's in my room.'

I didn't believe him. 'The crown is here in this hotel?' I said.

'Can ... can we see it?' Long asked.

Paxton didn't answer. We all listened to the wind. Then he said, 'Yes.'

3.1 Were you right?

Look back at your answers to Activity 2.4. Then look at the sentences. Who is speaking? Write A, B, C or D.

- ☐ 1 'He lived in a small house near the sea.'
- ☐ 2 'Can ... can we see it?'
- ☐ 3 'I'm an old friend of the family.'
- ☐ 4 'Was the crown there?'
- ☐ 5 'He was always on that hill.'
- ☐ 6 'This isn't a happy story.'
- ☐ 7 'William Agers was very quiet.'
- ☐ 8 'It's in my room.'



3.2 What more did you learn?

These sentences are wrong. Write good sentences.

- 1 Paxton has William Agers's pen in his hands.

Paxton has William Agers's book in his hands.

- 2 William Agers had one son and one daughter.

- 3 Agers lived in a big house near the river.

- 4 Paxton goes to Agers's house in his car.

- 5 Agers had many friends.

- 6 Agers was always in his house, never on the hill.

Language in use

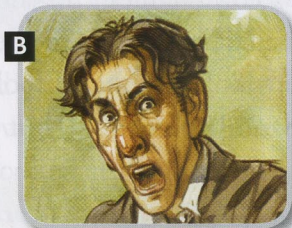
Look at the sentence in the box. Then finish these sentences.

He **lived** in a small house near the sea.

- 1 Paxton went back to the town on his bicycle. (go)
- 2 He was Agers's book in his hands. (have)
- 3 William Agers always on the hill. (be)
- 4 The three men to the wind. (listen)
- 5 The writer to Seaburgh on holiday. (come)
- 6 The man Paxton's questions. (answer)

What's next?

Look at the pictures on pages 16 and 17. What is Paxton thinking? What is the writer of the story thinking? Write A or B.



- ☒ **B** 1 'I'm very afraid of the crown's magic.'
- ☐ 2 'The crown is very old and interesting.'
- ☐ 3 'I don't want this crown!'
- ☐ 4 'Why is Paxton afraid?'
- ☐ 5 'I want to put the crown back in the ground.'
- ☐ 6 'The crown is very beautiful.'
- ☐ 7 'I want to put my hand on it.'
- ☐ 8 'Can this man help me?'

The Shadow in the Night

There was a person near the door to our room.

No, it wasn't a person. It was a shadow.

Paxton closed the door to his room quickly. Then he put a black bag on the table.

'Is it in there?' I asked.

Paxton didn't answer. Slowly he opened the bag.

In his hand was a black book. It was very old. Paxton opened it for us.

'Can you see the names?' he said.

Long looked at the names in the book. 'William Agers,' he said.

But I didn't look at it. No, I looked at the crown in our new friend's hands. It was very old, but it was beautiful.





I had a lot of questions. How old was the crown? Was it light or heavy? I moved my hand to the crown, but Paxton **shouted**, 'No!'

I stopped asking questions and looked at Paxton.

'I'm sorry,' he said to me. 'But you don't understand my problem ... I want to put the crown back in the ground.'

I didn't believe him. 'You can't put it back!' I said. 'This crown is very important. Telephone the newspapers in London ...'

'No, you don't understand,' Paxton said again. His eyes were big and afraid.

'OK, let's go to our room,' Long said. 'We can talk about the problem there.'

Paxton put the crown back in the black bag. He went to the door, but then he stopped.

'Wait! Go before me and look in your room,' he said. 'Please!'

'But why?' Long said. 'We're the only visitors in this hotel!'

shout /ʃaʊt/ (v) My mother *shouted* at me because I arrived home late.



But then we remembered the crown in Paxton's black bag. I opened the door and we looked left and right. There was a person near the door to our room. No, it *wasn't* a person. It was a **shadow**. It moved quickly.

'Who was that?' Long asked. We were in our room now.

'I don't know,' I answered. 'A hotel worker?'

'No, it wasn't a hotel worker,' Paxton said. He finished his story for us.



Paxton went back to the hotel from William Ager's house that afternoon. In his room, he looked at the Ager's book for a long time. Then he closed the book and went down for some food. Later, he

went back to the room. The book was open at William Ager's name.

Paxton was afraid, but that didn't stop him. He went to the hill again with his spade. It was dark now, but he didn't stop working. Suddenly there was a noise. Was it the wind?



shadow /'ʃædəʊ/ (n) In the evening the *shadows* of the trees fall on the house and it is very dark.

Paxton looked behind him. Was there a man in the trees? A dark shadow? No, of course not!

Paxton started to work again. The spade was heavy now and it was a difficult job. He wanted to sleep, but he wanted to find the crown, too.

And then it was there. The crown! Paxton smiled. He put his hands on it. Suddenly there was a noise behind him again. It wasn't the wind and it wasn't an animal. It was the noise of a man – an angry man.

Paxton looked behind him. Again, no man was there. But wait! Did a shadow move? Paxton didn't know, but he was suddenly very afraid. He quickly put the crown in his bag and started to go back to the hotel.

But now the shadow was with him. It was always behind him. Paxton looked back and the shadow always moved quickly away. But then it came back. Sometimes it was near him and sometimes it was **far away**.

Paxton was very afraid. Who – or what – was the shadow? And what did it want from him?



far away /,fɑ:r ə'weɪ/ (adv) We never visit them because they live *far away* from here.

4.1 Were you right?

Look again at Activity 3.4. Are your answers right? Then circle the right words in the sentences.

- 1 The crown is very *small* / *new* / *old*.
- 2 Paxton *wants* / *doesn't want* to telephone the newspapers.
- 3 The writer *puts* / *doesn't put* his hand on the crown.
- 4 William Agers's name is on the *book* / *crown* / *bag*.
- 5 Paxton is very *happy about* / *afraid of* the crown's magic.
- 6 Paxton puts the crown in a *red* / *white* / *black* bag.
- 7 Paxton goes back to the *beach* / *hill* / *sea* with the crown.
- 8 He has a *book* / *bicycle* / *spade* with him.

4.2 What more did you learn?

Put these sentences in the right order. Write the numbers, 1–9.

- A He starts to go back to the hotel.
- B There is an angry noise behind him.
- C Paxton looks at Agers's book for a long time.
- D He puts his hand on the crown.
- E Later he goes to the hill.
- F But a dark shadow moves with him.
- G Then he has some food in the hotel.
- H He starts to work with his spade.
- I He puts the crown in his black bag.

4.3 Language in use

Look at the sentence in the box. Then write sentences with these words.

The **spade** was heavy.

dark shadow bag afraid difficult interesting beautiful

1 The crown was beautiful.

2

3

4

5

6

4.4 What's next?

What do you think? Look at the pictures on pages 22 and 23. Answer the questions.

1 Who are the men in the pictures?

2 Which men have coats?

3 What is in the black bag?

4 What are they going to do?

5 What can the writer see under the trees?

A Cold, Dark Night

I wanted to be far away from this cold, dark place.

I wanted to be at home.

Paxton stopped. 'That's my story,' he said. 'Do you believe me?' I didn't believe it, but I didn't say that to Paxton.

'You believe it,' I answered, 'and that's the important thing.'

But then I remembered the shadow near the door to our hotel room.

'What can I do now?' Paxton asked.

I looked at Long, then at Paxton.

'OK,' I said. 'We're going to help you. We're going to come with you and put the crown back in its place under the ground. Let's go!'

Paxton smiled, but it wasn't a very happy smile. 'Thank you, thank you!' he said. He went to his room.

I looked at the window. It was a dark night. Long and I put on our coats and went to the hotel door. Paxton was there in front of the hotel. He had the black bag and the spade in his hands.

It was cold and we walked quickly. We walked near the church. I put my head down and didn't look up. I didn't want to see the gravestone of William Agers that night.

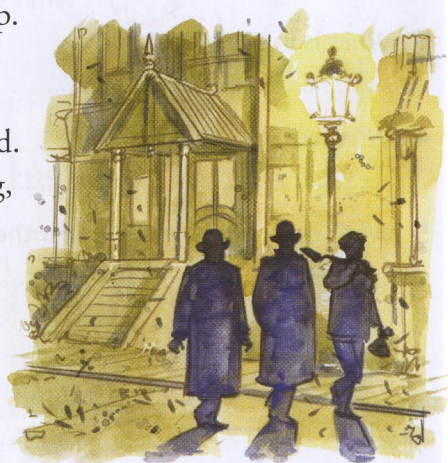
'Are we near the place?' Long asked. (My friend Henry Long likes walking, but he doesn't usually walk very quickly.)

'Yes,' Paxton answered.

Suddenly I looked left.

'What's that?' I said.

'What did you see?' Long asked.





‘There’s a man. He’s watching us from those trees! I know it!’

We looked and looked at the trees. There wasn’t a man there now. But I was afraid. What *did* I see? Was it Paxton’s shadow? Perhaps his story wasn’t wrong ... I didn’t like this.

‘Let’s be quick,’ Paxton said. ‘The shadow knows about us. He’s watching us.’

We arrived at the hill. Paxton didn’t wait. He started to work with the spade. Long and I only watched.

‘Can I help now?’ I said to Paxton, but he didn’t stop.

‘This is my job,’ he said.

Then he said to us, ‘Give it to me.’

We put the bag on the ground near him, but we didn’t open it. Paxton did that. I looked at the crown for the last time in Paxton’s hands. He finished the job quickly.

‘Is it in the ground?’ I asked him.

‘Yes.’

I smiled, but Paxton didn’t smile.

‘Let’s go back to the hotel,’ Long said. ‘It’s very late and our beds are waiting for us!’

We started to walk down the hill. Suddenly Long said, ‘Remember your coat, Paxton! It’s up on the hill.’

I looked up the hill behind us. Long was right. Paxton’s long, dark coat was there on the ground. But our new friend didn’t move.

‘What’s wrong, Paxton?’ I asked.

His face was white. His mouth moved but he didn’t talk.

‘Are you OK?’ Long asked.

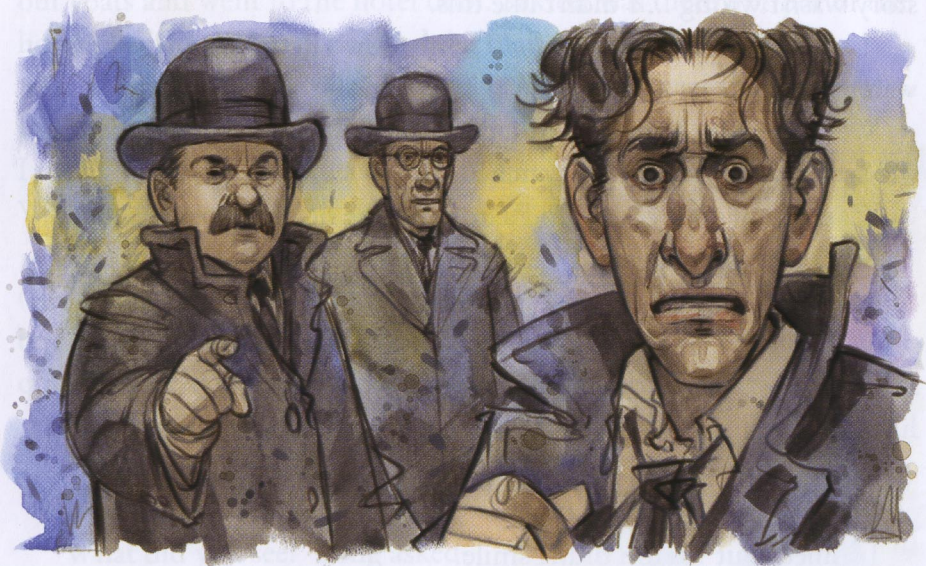
‘I ... I didn’t bring my coat,’ Paxton said. ‘It’s in my hotel room.’

The dark thing on the hill wasn’t his coat! But what was it?

I looked again. It wasn’t there now!

We went down the hill very quickly. We didn’t talk. We only listened to the noise of the sea.

Sometimes I looked behind us. Was that a shadow behind the trees? Did a shadow move in the church garden? Was there a dark shadow behind the gravestones?



I didn't know, and I didn't want to know. I wanted to be in my bed. No, I wanted to be far away from this cold, dark place. I wanted to be at home.

We arrived at the hotel at twelve o'clock. A hotel worker opened the door for us. He looked at the three of us.

'It's a cold night,' he said.

I was afraid, but I smiled.

'Yes, it is.'

The hotel worker looked up the road behind us.

'Did you meet any people on the road?' he asked.

'No,' Paxton said. 'We were the only people in Seaburgh.'

'But there was a man behind you ...' the hotel worker said.

Paxton looked back into the night with big eyes. The shadow wasn't there now.

The three of us went to our room. Paxton went to the window.

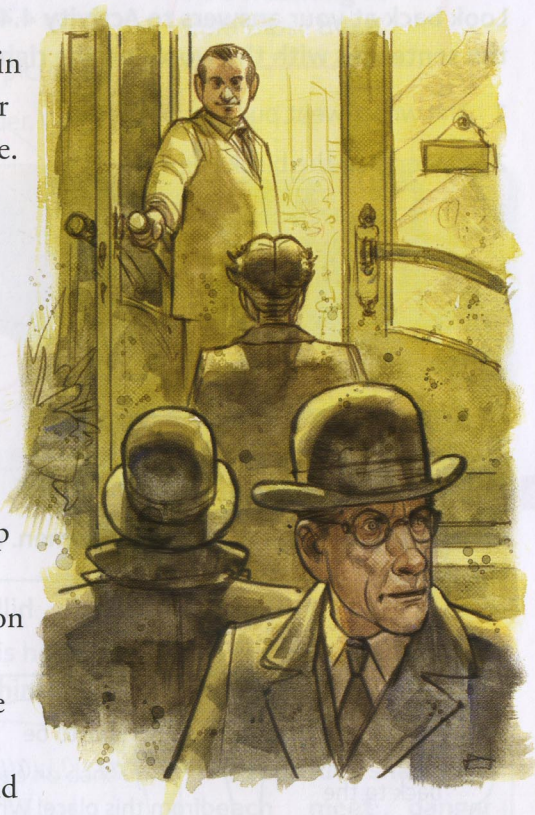
'It's OK now,' I said to him. 'The crown is in its place again. You're not in **danger** now.'

Paxton's eyes stayed on the night.

'Perhaps,' he said.

He went to the door. He said, 'Thank you' to Long and me, and then he went to his room.

'Good night,' I said. 'Sleep well.'



5.1 Were you right?

Look back at your answers to Activity 4.4. Are your answers right? Finish the sentences with the words on the right.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 The writer went out | a back in the ground. |
| 2 Paxton had the black bag | b at twelve o'clock. |
| 3 There was a shadow | c wasn't Paxton's coat. |
| 4 Paxton put the crown | d with Long and Paxton. |
| 5 The dark thing on the hill | e opened the door. |
| 6 They arrived at the hotel | f under the trees. |
| 7 A hotel worker | g in his hand. |

5.2 What more did you learn?

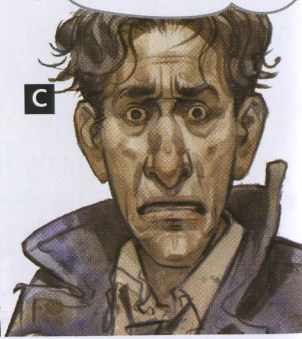
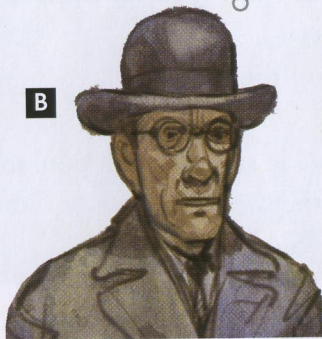
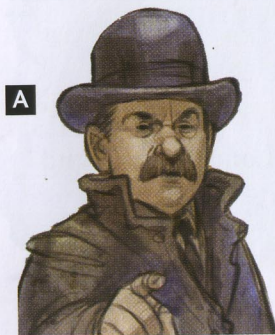
Look at these pictures of the three men. What are they thinking? Write the words.

hotel	far away	hill	afraid	quickly
shadow	crown	danger	animal	

I want to go
back to the
hotel
I can't walk very

I want to be
.....
from this place! What
was that dark shadow on
the?
Was it a person? Was it
an?

The
is in its place again. But I
am in
because I put my
hand on it. I am
.....
of the dark



5.3 Language in use

Look at the sentence in the box.

He's watching us
from those trees!

- 1 Finish the sentences under the pictures.
- 2 Put the pictures in the right order. Write the numbers, 1–4.



The hotel worker
is opening
the door. (open)



The shadow
with the men.
(move)



The three men
to the hill. (walk)



Paxton
the
crown in the
ground. (put)

5.4 What's next?

Is the writer happy now? What is he thinking? Look at the pictures on pages 28 and 29. What do you think? Write in the words.

It's a beautiful day! There's no dark
now. Our
is going to be good again. Long and I are going to
in a . Later
we can walk on the . Paxton
isn't in now.

beautiful shadow
beach meet danger
café holiday



A Long Run on the Beach

*Long and I started to run. It was difficult on the beach,
but we didn't stop.*

I don't know about Paxton, but sleep didn't come to me for a long time that night. And then I didn't sleep well. It was a long, long night.

I opened my eyes in the morning and went to the window. The sun's light came into the bedroom. It was late. I looked at the trees. It was a beautiful April day.

I washed and went down. Long was in a big chair with his newspaper and some coffee.

'Do you want some food?' he asked.

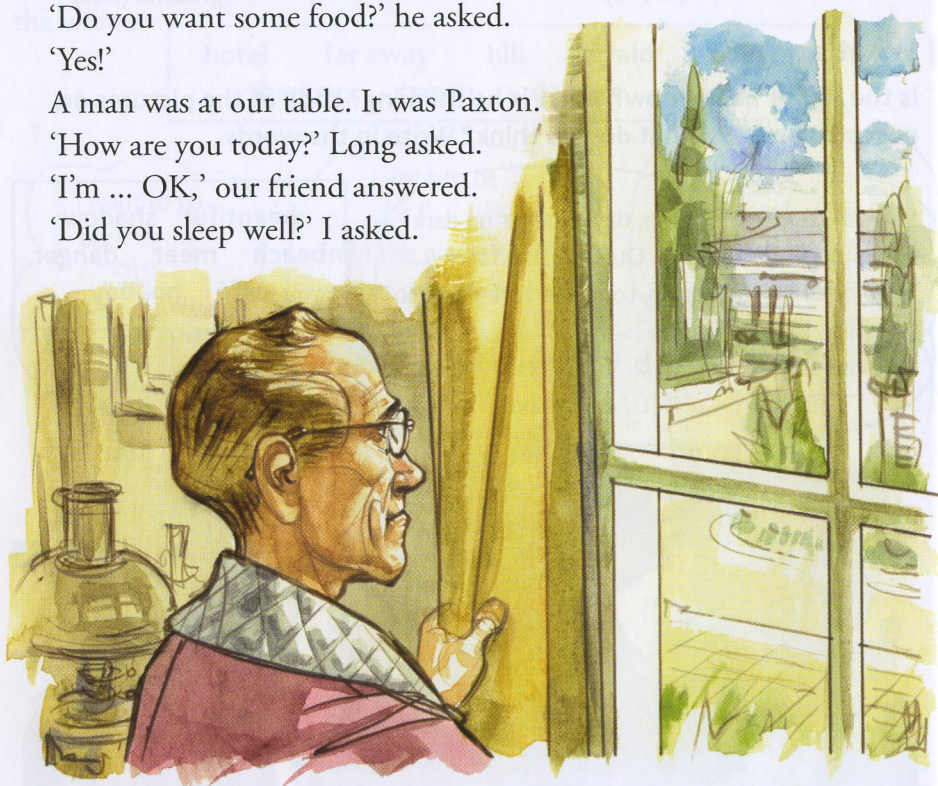
'Yes!'

A man was at our table. It was Paxton.

'How are you today?' Long asked.

'I'm ... OK,' our friend answered.

'Did you sleep well?' I asked.



‘Yes, thank you. I didn’t see the ...’ He stopped. ‘There wasn’t a problem all night.’

‘Good!’ I smiled. ‘Long and I are going for a walk this morning. Please come with us.’

‘No, thank you,’ Paxton answered. ‘I want to stay in the hotel this morning. I’m going to write some letters.’

‘This afternoon?’ Long said.

‘Yes, thank you.’

‘Good, good! Let’s meet at three o’clock,’ Long said. ‘Come to our room.’

We said goodbye to him.

Long and I had a good morning. Then we had some food in a café in a town near Seaburgh.





‘I like this,’ Long said. ‘We can have a good holiday again.’

‘It’s two-thirty,’ I said. ‘We’re meeting Paxton at the hotel at three o’clock.’

Paxton was at the hotel. He had a book in his hands and there was a smile on his face.

‘Did you have a good morning, Paxton?’ I asked.

‘Yes, thank you,’ he said. ‘I did.’

Long and I wanted to wash. Paxton waited for us.

I went down again quickly, but Paxton wasn’t there. Only his book was on the chair.

Long came down, too. ‘Where’s Paxton?’ he asked.





‘I don’t know,’ I said. ‘Perhaps he’s in his room.’

But there was no answer at Paxton’s door. We looked in the hotel garden but Paxton wasn’t there. I was a little afraid now.

A hotel worker came to us. ‘You’re here!’ she said.

‘Yes,’ I answered. ‘Why did you say that?’

‘Mr Paxton isn’t here,’ she said. ‘He wanted to see you and Mr Long. You were in front of the hotel. You shouted to him. He said ...’

‘We didn’t shout to him. We were in our room!’

We didn’t shout to Paxton. Who did? I was very afraid now.

‘Paxton!’ I said. ‘He’s in danger!’

In front of the hotel, we looked for our friend.

‘I can’t see him!’ I shouted.

The hotel worker was at the door behind us.

‘He went to the beach,’ she said. ‘He wanted to see you and Mr Long.’

‘Thank you!’

Long and I started to run. It was difficult on the beach, but we didn’t stop.

‘There! I can see him,’ Long said.

There was a person on the beach, but he was far away.

We shouted again and again.

‘Paxton! Come back, Paxton!’

‘We’re here!’

But there was a lot of noise from the wind and the sea. Paxton didn’t hear us.



‘What ... what’s he doing?’

‘I don’t know. I can’t see from here.’

‘Look at this, Long!’ I shouted.

There were **footprints** on the beach from Paxton’s shoes.

‘And look at this!’

This was a footprint, too. But it wasn’t Paxton’s.

‘But what’s wrong with it?’ Long asked.

‘This person didn’t have shoes,’ I said.

‘Was it a person?’ Long said. ‘Perhaps it was an animal ...’ The footprint was very thin.

I didn’t answer. A name came into my head – William Agers. But William Agers was dead!

‘Quick!’ I shouted.

We started to run again. Where was Paxton now?



6.1 Were you right?

Look back at your answers to Activity 5.4. Are your answers right? Then put the sentences in the right order. Write the numbers, 1–8.

- A There is a person far away on the beach.
- B Paxton waits for them.
- C The writer and Long eat in a café.
- D They shout but he doesn't hear them.
- E They go to the beach and look for Paxton.
- F The writer and Long wash.
- G They come down, but Paxton isn't there.
- H They go back to the hotel at two-thirty.

6.2 What more did you learn?

Look at these pictures. Put them in order. Then write the right sentence under each picture.

'Paxton! Are you in there?'

'Wait for us, Paxton!'

'He went to the beach.'

'What's this footprint?'



6.3 Language in use

Look at the sentences in the box. Then write sentences with *not/n't*.

Paxton **wasn't** there.
I **didn't** sleep well.

- 1 We shouted to Paxton.
.....
- 2 Paxton waited for us at the hotel.
.....
- 3 Paxton went back to the hill.
.....
- 4 The person on the beach had shoes.
.....
- 5 It was a man's footprint.
.....

6.4 What's next?

What do you think? Look at this picture. Answer these questions.

- 1 Who is the dead man by the sea?
.....
.....
- 2 Who or what was on the beach with Paxton?
.....
.....
- 3 What are the writer and Long going to do now?
.....
.....



The Dead Man by the Sea

I don't remember my time at the police station very well.

Only questions, questions, questions.

We arrived at a tall old building on the beach. Long and I started to go up it.

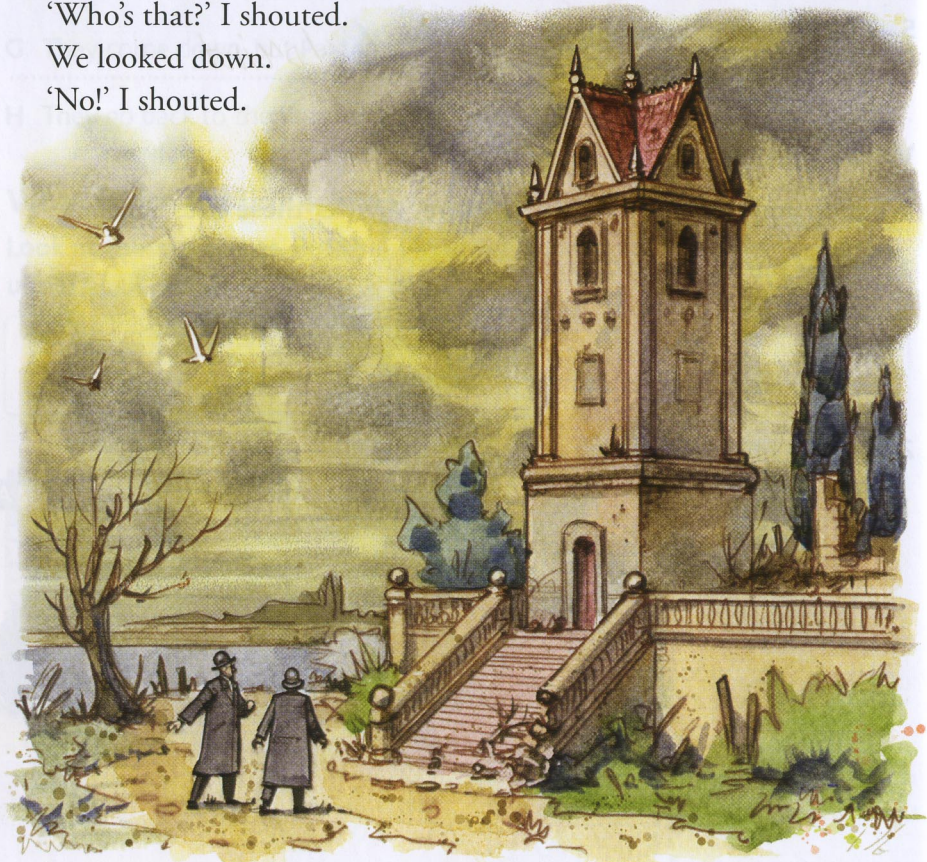
'Where is he?' I asked Long.

Long opened his mouth but he didn't answer. There wasn't time. Suddenly there was a noise. It was a person. A shout. But where did it come from?

'Who's that?' I shouted.

We looked down.

'No!' I shouted.





There was a man on the ground. It was our friend Paxton. He didn't move. His dead eyes looked up at us.

I looked at the dark sea.

'Paxton was right,' I said. 'He did it.'

'Who?' Long asked. 'I don't understand.'

'Agers protected the crown. He was dead, but he protected the crown.'

'But how?' Long said.

I had an answer but I didn't want to say it.

It was *magic*. Paxton wanted to find us. He went to the old building. He started to run. Suddenly the shadow was there. But now it wasn't only a shadow. It was William Agers and he was angry. Paxton looked into those cold, dead eyes.

And now Paxton was dead, too.

'What now?' I asked.

'There's a police station in town,' Long said.



We walked back on the beach. The footprints weren't there now. They were under the cold waters of the sea.

I don't remember my time at the police station very well. Only questions, questions, questions:

'Why were you on the beach?'

'Who was there?'

'How did you know Paxton?'

'What did you see?'

Long and I answered all of them. Yes, there was a man on the beach with Paxton. No, we didn't know him. He was very far away. Long and I had the same story, and the police believed us.

But we didn't talk to them about the crown – or about William Agers.



Long and I went away from Seaburgh. That was my last visit there. I'm never going to go to Seaburgh again.

And that's my story. You don't believe me! That's OK – I understand. Before this, I didn't believe stories about magic and dead people.

But listen to this, please.

Don't go to the small town of Seaburgh.

The little church near the sea is beautiful, but don't go near it.

Don't walk up the hill near the sea and don't look for the last crown.

Why? Because a person in Seaburgh is watching and waiting. He's dead, but that doesn't stop him. He has a job. The crown protects England, and he protects the crown.

He is *always* going to protect the crown.

And me? I'm at home again. I see my friend Long sometimes, but we never talk about our holiday in Seaburgh.

I do my job every day and I'm happy. But at night I don't sleep very well.

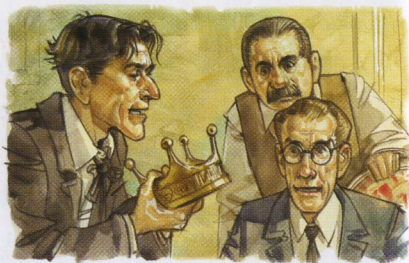
In my bedroom, in the dark, I close my eyes and listen to the wind.

I see a cold, dark sea. And under a hill the last crown sits and waits.



1 Look at the picture and then talk about the crown.

Student A: You are the writer. You like the crown very much. You have a lot of questions. Where did it come from? How old is it? Is it light or heavy? You want to put your hand on it. Perhaps you want to take it to London.



Student B: You are Paxton. You are afraid of the crown's magic. You don't want to answer the writer's questions. You want to put the crown back in the ground.

Start

Student A: This crown is very beautiful, Paxton. Can I ask you some questions about it?

Student B: I don't want to talk about the crown.

Student A: What's wrong, Paxton? Why are you afraid?

2 What do you like doing on holiday? Write ✓ or X. Then ask two students the same questions.

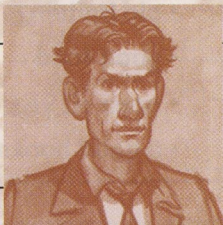
Do you like walking on the beach? Yes, I do / No, I don't.

	You	Student A	Student B
walking on the beach			
visiting old buildings			
shopping			
swimming in the sea			
going on a bicycle			
eating good food			
dancing at night			

What do you **all** like doing?

Read this story in *The Seaburgh News*. Then finish the sentences with the words in the box.

beach church family bookshop remember family bicycle
questions last holiday garden people crowns



Visitor to Seaburgh Dead on Beach

Mr Paxton came to Seaburgh on
..... holiday But yesterday he
was dead on the
The police talked to two of his
friends from the hotel and three
..... in the town.
Bob Carter works in the
church He



Bob Carter

said, 'I remember
this young man.
He came to the
.....
He asked questions
about the
picture with
the three

Then he asked about the
..... crown
and the Agers family.'

Jenny Smith works
in the



Jenny Smith

She remembers
Paxton too. She
said, 'This young
man came into my
shop last week. He
looked at an old book about the
Agers
Bill Jones said, 'I
this man. I live near William Agers's
house. This young man came there
on his

He asked a lot of

about William Agers.'
Can you help? The police
want to hear from you.



Bill Jones

- 1 Work with two or three students. It is many years after the time of the story. You are writers. You are writing a book about good hotels in England. You visit Seaburgh. There is a new hotel there. The name of the hotel is The Three Crowns.

Put these words into the right box. Put your words there too.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • a small, quiet town | • a new holiday hotel | • old buildings |
| • ten bedrooms | • a long beach | • good food |
| • interesting walks | • an old church | • open all year |
| • near the beach | • a beautiful garden | • a good bookshop |

About Seaburgh

- 1 a small, quiet town
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

About The Three Crowns Hotel

- 1 a new holiday hotel
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Write about Seaburgh and The Three Crowns Hotel for your book.

Good Hotels in England

SEABURGH

Seaburgh is a small, quiet town.

THE THREE CROWNS HOTEL



The Three Crowns Hotel is a new holiday hotel.

**THE THREE
CROWNS HOTEL**



Agers Street,
Seaburgh

3 Two or three of you are now visitors to England.

Students A, B and C:

You are visiting England on holiday. You buy *Good Hotels in England*. You read about The Three Crowns Hotel in Seaburgh. You want to go there for a weekend. You and your friends telephone the hotel. Ask these questions.

- Can you arrive on Friday, 7 June?
- Can you and your friends stay in the hotel for two nights?
- Can you have quiet rooms?
- Can you see the sea from the bedroom windows?
- Is the hotel near the shops / train station?
- Can you walk to the beach from the hotel?
- What can you do in Seaburgh?

Student D:

You work in the hotel. Answer the questions. Say:

- There are rooms on 7 June for two nights.
- You are sorry, but you can't see the sea from the bedroom window.
- But you can see the hill behind the town. Is that OK?
- The hotel is near the shops but not the train station.
- You can walk to the beach from the hotel.
- There are interesting old buildings in Seaburgh.

4 You are on the train to Seaburgh with your friends. What are you going to do there? Talk about your weekend and write about it here.

Friday evening	Arrive at The Three Crowns Hotel
Saturday morning	
Saturday afternoon	
Sunday morning	
Sunday afternoon	Go back to London

The Crown

M R James

British English

Classic

'You aren't from Seaburgh', the old man said. 'Go back to your hotel. Don't think about the crown again.'

Paxton is on holiday in Seaburgh, a small English town near the sea. He likes old things and old stories ... but he doesn't always listen. He takes a famous old crown from the ground. Suddenly, there is a shadow behind him, and Paxton is very afraid.

Number of words (excluding activities): 3,937

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